

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6 and 12 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is found in the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims and the specification at least on page 6, lines 7-12 and page 9, lines 2-6. No new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cocca (U.S. 5,315,342) in view of Tomatsuri (U.S. 4,367,028) and Fellegara (U.S. 5,845,166). Claims 2, 8 and 13 were indicated as allowable.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 8, and 13. However, it is respectfully submitted Claims 1, 6, and 12 are also allowable over the art of record.

In particular, Cocca and Tomatsuri are relied upon for teaching the claimed flash device by virtue of range finders 40 and 3, respectively, described therein. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the interpretation that the range finders of Cocca and Tomatsuri read on the claimed flash device.

Nonetheless, Claims 1, 6, and 12 are amended herein to specify that the flash device is a device which flashes and illuminates a photographic subject. It is respectfully submitted that the range finders of Cocca and Tomatsuri cannot reasonably be interpreted to read on the claimed flash device, which performs the aforementioned operations.

Specifically, the range finders of Cocca and Tomatsuri do not flash and illuminate a photographic subject. Consequently, these references are silent regarding the claimed cover device which covers the claimed lens and the claimed front surface of a flash device, as defined above.

Fellegara fails to remedy these deficiencies. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Claims 1, 6, and 12 (and any claims depending therefrom) are allowable over the art of record and the outstanding rejection should be withdrawn.

As a result of the above, it is respectfully submitted no issues remain pending in this application, and this application is thus in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues. Otherwise, a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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